

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An automated warranty fulfillment system for consumables comprising:
a memory disposed on said consumable;
an interface for facilitating communication between said consumable and an device;
warranty information originally stored on said memory;
use data obtained after installation of said consumable;

and

a set of computer-executable code instructions for interacting with a user, wherein said code instructions use fulfillment information selected from responses obtained from said user, said warranty information, and said use data to complete warranty requirements.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein consumable is an image forming consumable.

3. The system of claim 2 further comprising:

additional computer-executable code instructions for forming an image of said completed warranty requirements.

4. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a processor disposed on said consumable for executing said set of computer-executable code instructions, wherein said executed instructions are communicated to said device over said interface.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said user interacts with said automated warranty fulfillment system using a host system connected to said device.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said host system comprises a general purpose computer.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein said set of computer-executable code instructions communicates said completed warranty requirements to a warranty issuer over a data network.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein said data network comprises the Internet.

9. A method for automating warranty fulfillment for a consumable comprising the steps of:

storing warranty data onto memory disposed on said consumable;

interfacing said consumable with a home device;

obtaining use-related information after installation of said consumable;

executing warranty fulfillment software disposed on said consumable memory;

prompting a user for warranty-relevant data;

assembling warranty fulfillment information from selected ones of said warranty data, said use-related information, and said warranty-relevant data; and

completing warranty requirements responsive to said assembling step.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

connecting a host system to said device, wherein said prompting step is presented on a display of said host system.

11. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

printing said completed warranty requirements.

12. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

electronically communicating said completed warranty requirements to a warranty issuer.

13. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:

performing diagnostic testing on said consumable.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of:
comparing diagnostic information with said warranty data to determine applicability
of said warranty.

15. The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:
temporarily storing said warranty data and said use-related information in an external
memory when said consumable is inoperable.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:
executing warranty fulfillment software disposed on a memory of a new consumable;
and
assembling said warranty fulfillment information from selected ones of said
temporarily stored warranty data, said temporarily stored use-related information, and said
warranty-relevant data obtained by said new consumable.

17. A consumable for a device comprising:

means for storing warranty terms on said consumable;

means for obtaining post-installation information regarding said consumable;

means for storing said post-installation information on said consumable;

means for interacting with a user for fulfilling consumable warranty requirements; and

means for completing warranty fulfillment information from at least one of:

said warranty terms;

said post-installation information; and

said means for interacting.

18. The consumable of claim 17 further comprising:

means for interfacing said consumable with said device.

19. The consumable of claim 17 further comprising:

means for communicating with a host system operated by said user.

20. The consumable of claim 17 further comprising:

means for forming an image of said completed warranty fulfillment information.

21. The consumable of claim 17 further comprising:

means for communicating said completed warranty fulfillment information to a warranty issuer.